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## EMPLOYER DISCOUNT PROGRAM GOES ELECTRONIC

**S**tarting November 1, 2006, "EDP Goes Electronic," making Employer Discount Program information easier than ever to access and update for active EDP employers and members.

The new internet-accessible program will provide a confidential login code and secure password feature. Once the company or individual employee account is accessed, the authorized individual will be able to "take charge." Companies (employers) will now have the option of downloading important EDP information, plus have the capability of keeping track of employees' memberships online. Additionally, members (employees) will be able to access their information online, as well as have the option to renew memberships electronically.



More than 1,100 South Florida companies are currently enrolled in the EDP. Companies not yet enrolled, but interested in jumping onboard, will be able to find all the necessary forms and enrollment instructions online under Employer Discount Program, Employer Information, Getting Started.

### IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3 ...

1. Active employers and members log onto [www.tri-rail.com](http://www.tri-rail.com), Employer Discount Program and choose either Employer Information or Member Information.
2. Once inside, choose either the Active Employer Login or Active Member Login and enter either the Employer Number or Member Number to create a password.
3. After creating a password, the user will be directed to a new-user, login page, where employers or members can log in and begin to "take charge."

For help in getting started, or for additional information, please contact an Employer Discount Program Representative at 954-788-7929 or via e-mail at [edp@sfrta.fl.gov](mailto:edp@sfrta.fl.gov).

October 2006

# onboard

The latest news from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade & Palm Beach counties.

## BROWARD PENNY TAX COULD BRING CONGESTION RELIEF TO ENTIRE REGION

**S**outh Florida is growing at a remarkable rate, and Broward County is expected to add almost one million more residents by 2030. Although growth means continued economic vitality, it also means additional traffic congestion.

On November 7, 2006, Broward County voters will be making an important decision whether or not to increase the sales tax from six percent to seven percent in order to create a dedicated local funding source for transportation and transit.

If passed by the voters, the Penny Sales Tax will generate \$272 million in its first year, growing to more than \$400 million raised each year by 2030. Under the Florida Statutes, all of the revenue from the tax must be dedicated to improving transportation. With dedicated local funding in place, Broward County would be able to compete for federal funding and matching state funds that could potentially triple the financial resource. Approval of the Penny Tax will result in major immediate and long-term solutions to Broward County's traffic congestion problems.

The plan, initially promoted by a business group, is based on providing a balanced and integrated transportation system with choices for commuters and visitors. Immediate improvements under the plan will include increased bus service throughout the county, including better connections to Tri-Rail,

Miami-Dade Transit and Palm Tran.

Long term, the plan provides for the implementation of light rail transit and bus rapid transit on major north-south and east-west alignments in Broward County.

The Florida Department of Transportation is currently studying the potential for new service, possibly commuter rail, from Jupiter to south of Miami on the Florida East Coast Rail corridor. If Broward County voters agree to the Penny Tax, funding would be provided for Broward County's share of the new service.

The Penny Tax would also provide for free rides for senior citizens on BCT fixed routes and funding for countywide signal synchronization and traffic-flow improvements. Ten percent of the tax proceeds would be given back to Broward County's cities for their own transportation projects.

Proponents believe that the plan will provide Broward County with the means to implement a high-value, balanced and



Modern light rail is one of the transit technologies proposed for funding through the penny tax (as featured on the Hiawatha Line in Minneapolis, Minnesota).

integrated transportation system, incorporating bus, rail and more efficient roadways to prevent traffic from constraining the dynamic, economic engine that South Florida has become. Development of the system over time will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and spur millions in economic development.

(Continued on next page)



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## IMUESTO DE 1 CENTAVO EN BROWARD PODRÍA ALIVIAR LA CONGESTIÓN DE TRÁFICO EN LA REGIÓN ENTERA

**I**sur de la Florida está creciendo a un ritmo impresionante, y se espera que el condado de Broward adquiera casi un millón de residentes adicionales hacia 2030. Si bien el crecimiento significa la continuación de la vitalidad económica, también representa congestión de tráfico adicional para la región.

El 7 de noviembre de 2006, los votantes del condado Broward tomarán una importante decisión con respecto a aumentar el impuesto sobre las ventas del seis al siete por ciento, con el fin de establecer una fuente de fondos exclusiva para los sectores del transporte y el tránsito.

Si los votantes lo aprueban, el impuesto de 1 centavo generará unos \$272 millones en su primer año, y alcanzará una cifra superior a \$400 millones anuales hacia 2030. Conforme a las leyes de la Florida, toda renta pública derivada de ese impuesto se deberá utilizar exclusivamente para mejorar el transporte. Con el acervo de esos fondos de carácter exclusivo, el condado de Broward podría competir para obtener fondos federales y estatales adicionales, los cuales podrían triplicar potencialmente los recursos financieros disponibles. La aprobación del impuesto de 1 centavo resultará en importantes soluciones, ya sean de inmediato o a largo plazo, a los problemas de congestión de tráfico que experimenta el condado.

El plan, promovido inicialmente por un grupo empresarial, se basa en proporcionar un sistema de transporte equilibrado e integrado, con diversas opciones para los conductores y los visitantes. Las mejoras inmediatas previstas en el plan incluyen un aumento en el servicio de autobuses en todo el condado, así como mejores conexiones con Tri-Rail, Miami-Dade Transit y Palm Tran.

A largo plazo, el plan propone la disposición de servicio ferroviario urbano y servicio rápido de autobuses en las rutas principales, tanto las este-oeste como las norte-sur, del condado de Broward. El Departamento de Transporte de la Florida actualmente investiga el potencial para un nuevo servicio, posiblemente de tipo ferroviario urbano, desde Jupiter hasta el sur de Miami, a lo largo del corredor ferroviario usado por el ferrocarril Florida East Coast (FEC). Si los votantes del condado de

Broward ratifican el impuesto de 1 centavo, aportarán al nuevo servicio los fondos que les correspondieran al condado.

El impuesto de 1 centavo también proporcionaría servicio gratuito para ancianos en las rutas fijas de la Administración del Transito del Condado Broward (BCT), así como fondos para la sincronización de

señales y mejoras en el flujo del tránsito a nivel condal. Un diez por ciento de las rentas obtenidas por el impuesto sería devuelto a las ciudades del condado de Broward para sus propios proyectos de transporte.

Los partidarios del plan opinan que el plan proveerá al condado de Broward los medios para instalar un sistema de transporte equilibrado, integrado y de alto valor, el cual incorporaría autobuses, servicios ferroviarios urbanos y carreteras más eficientes, con miras a evitar que el tráfico coarte el motor económico dinámico que se ha devenido el sur de la Florida. En el transcurso del tiempo, la puesta en práctica de ese sistema creará miles de nuevos empleos y estimulará un desarrollo económico valorado en millones de dólares.

### TAKS SANTIM BROWARD LA KAPAB SOLISYONE PWOBLÈM BLOKIS SIKILASYON POU TOUT REJYON AN

**R**ejon Sid Eta Florid ap gwosi trè rapidman, epi nou prevwa Broward County pral genyen aepre 1 milion rezidan anplis anvan ane 2030 fini. Menmsi kwasans vle di vitalite ekonomik, sa vle di tou pwolblèm blokis sikilasyon an ap vini pi grav.

Nan dat 7 novanm 2006, voté Broward County yo pral pran yon desizyon empòtan pou wè si yo vle ogmante taks sou vant yo ki sis (6) pousan koulye a fè l monte sèt (7) pousan, pou kapab kreye yon sous finansman eksklizif pou transpò ak pou sikilasyon.

Si voté yo aksepte ogmantasyon sa a, Taks Santim sou Vant yo la pral jenere \$272 miyon dola nan premye ane a, pou l tounen plis pase \$400 miyon ki prelve chak ane anvan fen ane 2030. Selon Konstitisyon Eta Florid la deklare, yo pa kapab sèvi ak revni taks la pou iot bagay pase amelyorasyon sistèm transpò



*Modern bus rapid transit could relieve congestion through dedicated lanes on local roadways (as featured on the Orange Line in San Fernando Valley, California).*

a. Grasa finansman eksklizif y ap met anplas, Broward County ta kapab espere resevwa finansman federal ak finansman Eta a ki menm nivo ak finansman federal la,

sa ki ta kapab petèt triple resous finansyè yo. Si voté yo apwouve Taks Santim la, sa vle di yo pral otorize divès solisyon ki gen konsekans touswit ak alontèm pou pwoblèm blokis sikilasyon nan Broward County yo.

Yon gwooup enterè komèsyal prive te sponsorize plan an anpremye; men koulye a, plan an vle founi yon sistèm transpò ekilibre ak entegre ki ofri pasaje regilye ak vizitè yo divès chwa. Plan an prevwa kòm amelyorasyon imeda plis sèvis otobis toujou nan tout county a, ki gen ladann miyò kènèkson ak Tri-Rail, Miami-Dade Transit ak Palm Tran.

Alontèm, plan an pèmèt mizanplas sikilasyon tren leje ak sikilasyon otobis rapid sou tout aliyman prensipal Nò-Sid ak Ès-Wès nan Broward County. Depatman Transpò Eta Florid ap etidye alèkile posibilité pou genyen nouvo sèvis, posibleman pou tren banlye (commuter rail), soti Jupiter rive nan sid Miami sou koridò tren Kot Ès Eta Florid la. Si voté Broward County yo vote Lwa sou Taks Santim la, sa t ap kreye finansman pou pa Broward County an dwe peye pou nouvo sèvis sa a.

Taks Santim sa a ta pèmèt granmoun deplase gratis sou itinerè fiks Transpò nan Broward County (BCT) yo ansanm ak finansman pou senkronizasyon siyal nan tout county yo ak amelyorasyon ekoulman sikilasyon an. Dis (10) pousan nan revni taks yo ta retounen nan men vil Broward County yo pou yo kapab finanse pwòp pwojè transpò pa yo.

Sipòtè taks sa a panse plan an pral bay Broward County mwayen pou aplike yon sistèm transpò ki gen apil valè, ki ekilibre epi ki entegre, ki enkòpore otobis, tren ak wout ki pi efikas pou kapab anpeche sikilasyon la vin toufe motè ekonomi dinamik Rejyon Sid Eta Florid la. Developman sistèm sa a pral kreye plizyè santèn milye djòb alavni epi l ap pèmèt jwenn anpil milyon dola pou developman ekonomik rejon an.



*(R to L) SFRTA Chair Commissioner James A. Scott joins Safety & Security Administrator Allen Yoder, SFRTA and Project Manager Tim Cates, Wackenhut Corporation in presenting the officers with a Certificate of Distinction.*

## WACKENHUT OFFICERS RECOGNIZED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

**T**wo of Wackenhut Corporation's custom protection officers were recognized at the recent meeting of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's Governing Board for distinguished service under extraordinary circumstances.

C.P.O. Alfonso Candelaria was patrolling Tri-Rail's Delray Beach Station one morning when he observed a female teenager attempting to commit suicide by hanging. He quickly rescued her and called fire rescue to the scene.

C.P.O. Arlene Dale was on duty at Tri-Rail's Fort Lauderdale Station when she saw that a suspect fitting the description of a man wanted for first-degree murder by the Broward Sheriff's Office was in the process of trying to purchase an Amtrak ticket. She was able to clear the area and keep Tri-Rail passengers at a safe distance.



## JUST SAY YES!

**P**assengers usually refer to them as the "dancing couple" — she takes the train to her job at Jackson Memorial Hospital and he brings her to the station every morning and waltzes her around the platform until the train arrives, when he sends her off with a hug and a kiss. A few weeks ago though, they became known as the "couple that got engaged," as he decided to pop the question at Tri-Rail's Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport Station at Dania Beach.

According to Lenore Schaffer, the bride-to-be, that particular day, "felt like any other morning." They went through their usual singing and dancing routine, but, at the last moment before the train arrived, it turned into a scene from a classic black-and-white film, where the leading man shouts out, "I love you. Will you marry me," as his beloved boards a train in a cloud of steam and smoke to go off to some far away city.

Just as the train arrived, Steve Koppelman dropped down on one knee and proposed to Lenore. Station Agent Bob Dytkowski, who has watched this romance blossom, shouted, "Say yes," over the electronic message system. Other passengers applauded enthusiastically and cried, "Where's the ring?"

Lenore had to be convinced that Steve wasn't joking. Once she realized he was serious and accepted his marriage proposal, she also realized she still needed to get to work. The newly engaged hospital support associate for MMF Systems boarded the train, slightly in shock at what had just transpired, but very, very happy. Could there be a wedding on the train in their future? Stay tuned.

## AND THE WINNER IS ...



*Maryann Connors is the winner of Tri-Rail's Employer Discount Program contest. She will enjoy a \$500 shopping spree at The Colonnade Outlets at Sawgrass Mills. More than 1,400 people responded to Tri-Rail's "Enter to Win" promotion in conjunction with the launch of Tri-Rail's new and improved train schedule. Be sure to watch out for future promotions coinciding with the Double Track Corridor Improvement Program, New River Bridge Project completion in early 2007.*